



State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

Daily Review of the Syrian Press

25X1

25X-

No. 84

(FOR STAFF USE ONLY)

Monday, May 1, 1950

Paners Reviewed:

Alif Ba', Al Nasr, Al Manar, Al-Fayha', Al Ba'th,
Barada, Al-Balad, Al-Kifah, Al Masa', Al Qabas,
Al Ayyam, Al Insha', Al Alam, Al Hadara, Al Nidal,
Al Shabab, Al Nasir, Al Islah, Al-Suri, Al Jabal,
Asa-al-Jannah, Al Naqqad.

DOMESTIC AFFAIRS

BAN ATOMIC WEAPONS

Barada, May 1: A petition signed by the majority of Damascene lawyers has been sent to the United Nations requesting the prohibition of the use of atomic weapons and proposing the setting up of an international control system for implementing this prohibition. The petition states that the government which first resorts to the use of atomic weapons should be considered guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity, and should be treated as war criminals.

BARAZI AND 'AJLANI CRITICIZED

Barada of May 1 observes in an article that Anglo-American spies have been recently active in Syria attempting to give the false impression that Minister Dawalibi's declarations have not been received with satisfaction by the Syrian people. The attempts of these agents affected even certain Representatives of the Constituent Assembly, such as Barazi and 'Ajlani who, in the last meeting of the

Assembly, had the impertinence to accuse Minister Dawalibi of betraying the interests of his country. Barazi, who acted as a French accomplice during the French Mandate, had the audacity to direct accusations and abuses against Minister Dawalibi who is reputed for his patriotism and for his noble stand in Syria, during the French Mandate, in Paris, during his study period, and in Germany, where he was a political refugee hunted by the French on charges of Nazism and communism. As for 'Ajlani, he expressed his approval of the annexation of the Arab part of Palestine to Jordan, ignoring British domination and military occupation of Jordan and the notorious role of King 'Abdallah during the Palestine conflict and his friendly communication with Shertok, Ben Gurion and other Jewish leaders.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE MEETING POSTPONED

Al-Manar, May 1: It is reported from Cairo that the meeting of the Political Committee of the Arab League, scheduled to be held on May 2, has been postponed until May 7 at the request of the Iraqi Government. It is to be noted that May 2 is the anniversary of King Faysal II's birthday and that the Iraqi King is leaving for London on May 7.

REFUGEES PETITION

Al-Manar, May 1: A delegation representing the Palestinian Arab refugees in Syria have petitioned the Chief of State to use his good offices in an effort to convince the appropriate authorities to distribute the aid allotted to them in money instead of provisions. The refugees also complained of the bad quality of provisions, especially flour, which are distributed to them.

SYRIAN LEGATION INQUIRES

Al-Manar, May 1: The Syrian Legation in Moscow has inquired from the Pilgrimage Directorate in Syria about the conditions relating to the transportation of Syrian pilgrims to Jidda by sea. Some time ago the Pilgrimage Directorate requested the Syrian Legation in Moscow to rent ships for the transportation of pilgrims to Jidda. Among other things, the Syrian Legation inquired as to whether the rent of the ship was to be paid in Syrian currency and as to whether the Soviets could purchase with this currency Syrian commodities and products.

CAUSES OF MINISTERIAL CRISIS

Barada of April 29 attributes the present ministerial crisis to the Constituent Assembly which was elected during Hinnawi's regime. Most of the members of the Government, during Hinnawi's regime, were working for establishing a throne in Syria and for subjecting the country to imperialism. It is only natural that the Constituent Assembly which was elected under those circumstances for the purpose of realizing the designs of Hinnawi's government should be a permanent cause for unrest and instability. The institution has revealed the hidden.....

the hidden motives of certain members of the Assembly. The articles relating to the alteration of the flag and the transfer of the capital clearly show the desire of these members to implement the Fertile Crescent Project, referred to in Nuri al-Sa'id's Blue Book, in accordance with which the Crescent is to have three capitals, Damascus, Baghdad and 'Amman. The article which provides that the President of the Chamber of Deputies should become the head of the government, in case the Chamber is dissolved, clearly shows the prejudicial designs of certain members of the Constituent Assembly. The dissolution of parliament is normally the outcome of a dispute between the legislative and executive powers. The executive power refers the dispute to the people. How can the dispute be settled if the executive powers are vested in the legislative authority?

The paper concludes by calling for the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly and the holding of new elections under the auspices of a neutral government in which all parties and organizations are represented. It should be noted that the exceptional circumstances under which the Constituent Assembly was elected dissuaded four fifths of the electors from participating in its election.

HAWRANI'S RESIGNATION

Al Manar: According to a communique issued today (Sunday April 30), the Council of Ministers held a meeting at 1:00 p.m. Sunday and decided not to accept Minister Hawrani's resignation.

Al Masa': Minister Hawrani insists on his resignation and will communicate his decision to the Cabinet.

COMMUNISM....

Al Nasr: Ten communists were arrested yesterday in Damascus for distributing communist tracts and pamphlets. In Homs, the Security officials apprehended 5 communists, among them a girl, and sent them under escort to Damascus for trial.

In Aleppo it is reported that the Communist-organized demonstration on May 1, Labor Day, was checked. The demonstrators were dispersed by the Security officials, and a number of instigators arrested.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION

Al Nasr: There is every likelihood that a joint committee will be set up by the People's Party and the Liberal Republican Bloc to coordinate and discuss the viewpoints of both sides with respect to the provision of the new constitution. The draft constitution will then be submitted for discussion to the Constituent Assembly in an amended form. It is believed that the constitution will not be debated on the assigned date - May 8.

LABOR DAY CELEBRATION

(Pr. Dig. 81/4)

LABOR DAY CELEBRATION

Al Nasr: On the occasion of Labor Day, May 1, the Syrian Social Nationalist Party (SSNP) will organize a celebration at its office, Monday, at 7:30.

COMMEMORATION OF MARTYRS DAY

Al Balad, April 30: The Martyrs Day, May 6, will be officially celebrated by the Government. Arrangements are being made for the occasion. The Premier is expected to deliver a speech.

MINISTER KABBARAH CONFERRING WITH ARMY CHIEFS

Al Nidal: April 30 - Lt. Colonel Adib al-Shishikli and three top-Army officers conferred with the Minister of Interior, Mr. Sami Kabbara, for a long time in a closed meeting.

BRITISH CONSPIRACY IN ALEPPO (Pr.Dig.77)

Al Islah, April 30: A communique issued by the Muhafiz of Aleppo labels as untrue the reports published by Al Masa' on a British conspiracy aimed at sowing dissension and trouble between the Moslems and the Armenians in the Midan Quarter in Aleppo by defacing a Mosque situated in that district.

US MEDIATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND TURKEY

Al Shabab, April 30: ANA correspondent in Ankara learns from informed circles that talks have been resumed between Ankara and Washington concerning the renting of the Alexandretta Port by the US Government.

It is also reported that the State Department is today studying a proposal for the possible mediation by the US Government to settle the question of the Sanjak of Alexandretta which Syria considers as an integral part of the Syrian country. The US Government will reportedly act as a third party mediator to see that both parties execute their pledges in case a compromise solution is reached.

CHIEF OF STATE'S VISITORS

Al Kifah: A Communique issued by the Presidency of the Republic states that.....

(Pr. Dig. 81/5)

states that at 12:00 noon, Sunday, April 30, H.E. the Chief of State, Hashim al-Atasi, received at his residence Mr. Husayn Fahmi Bey, former Minister of Finance in Egypt, and presently the member of the Board of Administration of Bank Misr. The Egyptian minister was accompanied by Mr. George Bey Khattar, member of Board of Administration of Bank Misr, Edmond Bey Qashisho, Director General of the Bank, and Riyad Bey Ghandur, the Director of the Damascus Branch of the Bank.

ARAB AFFAIRS

JORDAN AND SYRIA

All papers reproduced from Al Misri an interview made in 'Amman last week between its correspondent, Zuhayr al-Kuzbari, and King 'Abdullah. The King was quoted as having declared that:

1. Egypt is an african people aiming at leading the Arabs.
2. If the Arab League decides any sanction against Jordan, I will definitely leave the League.
3. The only Arab state which borders Jordan is Syria. It is in the interest of Syria not to impose an economic blockade on Jordan. If such a blockade is imposed I will break it by force.
4. I will not abandon the Greater Syria scheme.

In Damascus Premier 'Azm made the following comment on the King's statement:

"I doubt that the King made such a declaration.... The Syrian people and notably the valiant Syrian Army can withstand all aggressions which may come from any source."

All Monday papers published a denial of King Abdullah of the story published by Al Misri.

PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER IN DAMASCUS

Al 'Alam, May 1: Mr. Liyakat Ali Khan, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, landed in the Mezze Airport for a short visit on Friday, April 29, en route to the United States. He stated that Pakistan will not forget its duty toward Palestine, the Holy Land.

The Pakistani Minister to Syria and Lebanon Mr. Barakat Quraysh expressed the readiness of his country to extend every help to rescue and liberate Palestine. He added that Pakistan will never recognize the "State of Israel".

Al-Ba'th.....

Al Ba'th, April 30: The Eastern News Agency reports that Khalid Bey al-'Azm, the Syrian Premier, complained to Liyakat Ali Khan, the Pakistani Premier, against foreign pressure, and explained to him the truth about the Palestinian question. The Agency further reports that the Syrian Premier requested the Pakistani Premier to try and persuade President Truman to intervene with the Israeli authorities and force them to put an end to their aggressions and to comply with the UN resolutions regarding the Palestine question.

GENERAL KANNADY IN DAMASCUS

Al Ba'th, April 30: General Kannady, the head of the international agency for the implementation of Clapp's projects in the Middle East, is expected in Damascus today, May 1, accompanied by his staff. General Kannady is touring the Arab countries to discuss the question of implementing the recommendations of Clapp's Mission. The paper publishes the report under the headline: "Arabs will not give up their lands. They will not permit their homeland to become a field for imperialist projects."

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

EFFECTS OF ECONOMIC SEPARATION

Al-Hadara of April 30 asserts that economic separation from Lebanon has benefited only certain individuals, notably industrialists and cloth and textile merchants who have increased their prices 30% since economic separation was effected. As for the majority of the people, they have suffered greatly, particularly farmers who cannot find markets for selling their products.

MOVIES

DIMASHQ

LES MISERABLES

Frederic March
Charles Loughton

DUNIA

REBECCA

Joan Fontaine
Laurence Olivier

ROXY

STATION WEST (RKO)

Dick Powell
Jane Greer

(Pr.Dig.81/7)

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, Saturday, April 29.

The visitors' gallery and the diplomatic box were crowded. All were anxious to hear the views of the Government and the Assembly towards the great problems facing the Arab League. The absence of the Ministers of Defence and Agriculture was noted. The latter came for two minutes in the second half of the meeting and left.

The Secretary read the report of the Judicial Committee on the draft law submitted by 'Abd al-Latif al-Sibahi (P - Aleppo) which suspends the construction program of the Ministry of Public Work because of an unfair distribution of appropriations between the Syrian Muhafazahs. The Judicial Committee recommended the Assembly to reject this draft law because of its contradiction to the Internal Rules of Procedures. The debate on the Committee's recommendation was a test of strength of the two contesting groups in the Assembly, the People's Party and the Liberal Republican Parliamentary bloc.

Minister Mubarak strongly defended the budget of his Ministry, refuted the charge of unfair distribution, and pointed out that the appropriations for the improvement of Mezzeh Airport and the completion of the Court House in the capital of the country should only be considered on a national basis. Mubarak concluded that "such tendencies by Assembly members are dangerous."

'Abd al-Wahhab Howmad, Shakir al-'Ass, and Anwar Ibrahim Pasha (all Populists) defended Sibahi and refuted the charge of "regional tendency".

'Abd al-Latif Sibahi (P - Aleppo) described the press campaign against his proposal as "artificial". He added that certain responsible officials had paid money to certain newspapers to launch the "campaign against regional tendencies."

Premier 'Azm refuted the charge that certain responsible officials instigated the campaign, emphasized the importance of the freedom of the press, and pointed out that his Government which has lately been the center of press criticism never contemplated the imposition of any restriction on that freedom. The Premier expressed his full support of his colleague, the Minister of Public Works, and of his reference to dangerous tendencies. 'Azm pointed out that the Government was going to implement vast constructive and economic projects and that it could not implement them on regional considerations.

Mustafa

(Pr.Dig.81/8)

Mustafa al-Siba'i (MB-Damascus) criticized Sibahi's proposal and pointed out that any Assembly member was free to object to certain appropriations but could not object on the ground that a certain city had received more appropriations than another. He added that such objection should be considered a dangerous tendency especially that the French had, during the French Mandate, planted regional tendencies which led some people to ask for separation from Syria and annexation to another state.

Ziki al-Khatib (Damascus-Ind) called for union of the country and urged the Assembly to drop all regional considerations.

Ali Buzo (Damascus-P) tried to calm down the atmosphere by stating that both the Minister of Public Works and Sibahi have to be blamed for uttering strong words during the debate.

Abdullah Tamir (Salamia-P) defended Sibahi.

Sibahi submitted an amendment to his proposal but was defeated.

The report of the Judicial Committee was put to vote and was adopted. Qanbar (P-Aleppo) asked for a second vote, and despite the objection of some members, it was put to vote and adopted for the second time.

Next, the Assembly debated the Government's statement on the Arab League's activities.

Mustafa al-Siba'i (MB-Damascus:

Harmony in the Arab League: "I should like to share the Premier's optimism with regard to the decisions of the Arab League were it not for the fact that the Arab part of Palestine has been recently annexed to Jordan. This annexation proves that the Arab League is still characterized by disunity. The misfortunes of the Arab nation are due mainly to the fact that it has entrusted the Arab League with the direction of its foreign policy. There is no doubt that certain Arab government do not represent the wishes of their people and that others are guided by foreign interests and directions."

Refugees' question: "I view with amazement the attitude of the Arab states towards the refugees' problem. The only condition which the Arab states have set for negotiating with the Jews is the return of the refugees to their homes... This simply means that the refugees are to return in order to be under Jewish domination and government. In other words, the Jews are to be entrusted with the education of the refugees' sons. The Jews will even arm the refugees' sons to fight their Arab brethren and will also use them to spy on the Arab countries."

Collective Security Pact: "The provisions of this Pact are indeed well construed, but I should like to inquire whether these provisions are stronger than the declaration made by Arab kings and chiefs after the Irbid conference. Did not the Arab League...

(Pr.Dig.81/9)

declare after that conference that it would consider every support of the partition plan as a hostile action which might force the Arabs to boycott the state in favor of partition? Did not the League also declare that it would impose sanctions against the state which would support partition and would resort to the cancellation of oil concessions? What happened to the oil concessions after the partition plan was approved? How are we to explain the new concessions which were granted even after the adoption of the partition plan? We granted the Tapline company a concession which we had withheld prior to partition. Admitted that the Tapline agreement was concluded during Za'im's regime, nevertheless should not the agreement have been referred to the Constituent Assembly after the reinstitution of constitutional government? Furthermore, did not the Arab League declare at one time that the Arab armies were entering Palestine with a view to handing the country to its owners after its liberation? Has Jordan, which participated in issuing this declaration, respected it? We cannot rely on such pacts unless they are the outcome of good intentions on the part of those who participate in concluding them."

Policy of Camps: "If the submissiveness of the Arab League to the Anglo-American camp has led us to such disasters, are we not entitled to think of a rapprochement with the other camp? Is there anything to prevent us from so doing? We are told that we are democratic and that Communism is inconsistent with our faith. It is very well to say this, but have not Britain and America, in their long conflict with Russia, been solely concerned with their own interests? Have they not supported Israel in compliance with the dictates of their interests? Why should we, then, be denied the right of looking towards the Russian camp if it is in our interest to do so? It would be reasonable to listen to the advice and directions of Britain and America were they anxious to respect our dignity and preserve our interests. As it is, the dangers resulting from their advice and directions are daily increasing. At one time Churchill declared that he would be ready to cooperate with the devil for the purpose of withstanding German danger. Be Russia what it may, what is there to prevent us from cooperating with it for the purpose of repulsing Jewish danger? German danger which at one time threatened Britain is by no means less than the present Zionist menace to the Arabs."

"When we declare the necessity of cooperating with Russia in our interest it is not our intention to become Communists, but it is our desire to benefit from any quarter willing to extend its hand to us. What we want is to liberate ourselves from submissiveness to one quarter or one camp.

"We are further told that our faith and morals should induce us to side with the democratic Anglo-American camp, since Russia is opposed to religion and morals. We should like to ask whether it was in conformity with Anglo-American faith to surrender the birthplace of Christ to his enemies and whether it was in conformity with Anglo-American faith to initiate its political career with the most abject and atrocious crimes...

(Pr.Dig.81/10)

a threat

✓ It is further argued that the Russian threat is/to civilization and that cooperation with Russia is not compatible with the cause of humanity. May we ask what benefit we have derived from the civilization of the English, American, and French other than the expatriation of our men and children, the colonization of our country, and our subjection to the world vagrants? If such are the blessings of their civilization, why do they want us to adhere to it? Let Britain and America together with their arms and civilization go to hell, and let us not care for their fate so long as they increase our misfortunes and insist on keeping us in a state of servitude and disgrace.

"I should point out, however, that in advocating commercial, military, and political agreement with the Russian camp I am not a communist nor am I an advocate of Communism. As a matter of fact, no person has been more exposed to Communist attacks in this country than I have been. Nevertheless, I have always discriminated between Communism as an internal problem and the political expedience of benefiting from Russia.

"If the Arab League continues its present policy, it will eventually find itself completely alienated from the Arab people. The people are undergoing a deep psychological revolution. Every day they receive new insults from Britain and American. America is supporting Zionism because it fears the presence of 500,000 Jewish Communists in Israel. Do the Arabs who number 70 million people and who are backed by 400 million Moslems constitute a force less important to Britain and American than half a million Communist Jews?

"Our delegation to the Arab League will shortly leave for Cairo. We hope that our Government will be the first to revolt against the old fashioned policy since it represents a people who have been the first to revolt against old fashioned leadership.

What the People Want?...

"1- The people want the League to amputate its infected member irrespective of the consequences.

"2- The people want the League to be solely concerned with the interest of the Arab nation and not with the interests of its kings and chiefs.

"3- The people want the League to liberate itself from the domination of the British and Americans. If Britain and America continue to exert pressure on us, we should turn our faces to the Eastern camp."

Munir 'Ajlani (Damascus-Ind): "The Premier's statement that the inhabitants of Palestine have the right to determine their future is incorrect. Palestine represents a part of natural Syria and if it is annexed to Jordan it is annexed to a part of Syria. Would that annexation had happened before the 1948-1949 gedy. As it

is...

(Pr.Dig. 81/11)

is, it has taken place late, but late though it may be, it would nevertheless preserve the remaining part of Palestine against Zionist aggression.

"As for the proposal for rapprochement with Russia I should like to point out that we cannot become Communists, since Communism was the creation of Karl Marx, the Jew, and since Communism conflicts with Islam. This, however, should not prevent us from establishing political relations with Russia.

"We should not lose faith in Britain and America since there are liberals among the British and American peoples."

Ratib al-Husami (Homs-P) read a statement on behalf of the People's Party pointing out that the Collective Security Pact did not realize the aspirations of the Arab people, but the People's Party welcomes every step, however weak, toward cooperation and unity of the Arabs.

Husni al-Barazi (Ind-Hama) sarcastically referred to the reception extended to Premier 'Azm upon his return from Cairo. (The cabinet withdrew and returned after the completion of his speech.) He criticized Minister Dawalibi for assuming the role of a foreign minister and for making declarations detrimental to Syria's political and strategic situation. Barazi added that Syria is not in a position to challenge big powers. He continued that Dawalibi has assumed the position of a trustee for the country. The man, he said, once advocated Nazism and today he is proposing the transformation of our country into a Soviet republic.

(Here, President Kikhya reminded him not to attack persons) Barazi continued by proposing that Syria follow a natural policy towards the big powers and attempt to obtain their help.

When the cabinet returned, Mustafa al-Siba'i (MB) bitterly attacked Barazi's remarks and quarrel resulted. Words of "spy and traitors" were exchanged between Dawalibi and Barazi. Dawalibi proposed the setting up of a committee to investigate who the spy is. 'Azm strongly protested against Barazi's provocations.

Before the meeting was adjourned, Premier 'Azm in answer to 'Ajlan's question on the resignation of Minister Hawrani, stated that Hawrani's resignation was not accepted, and that he would inform the Assembly of further developments.

The meeting was adjourned until Saturday, May 6.

---000---